

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of October 7, 2005 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 8-14 have been rejected as anticipated by Irwin under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Irwin patent discloses a multi-station wireless (RF) thermometer and alarm system which measures temperatures and/or relative humidity at remote locations by RF weather stations. That means tht the environmental conditions are surveyed, for example in a house, and an alarm is activated as soon as one of the measured values exceeds a predetermined limit value.

The present invention is quite different. The scale of application cannot approach that of Irwin. According to the present invention the area of "Predictive Maintenance" is a field device, and failure of a field device is prevented by continuously checking the environmental conditions and their influence on the functionality of the field device. By the present invention, it is ensured that the transmitter of a field device, which includes the electronic parts of the field device can always work under conditions not damaging the electronic parts of the transmitter.

The field device itself may provide information on any physical or chemical parameter, for example flow, level, pressure, temperature, pH value, conductivity and so on. The additional temperature or humidity sensor is placed in the housing of the transmitter which includes the electronic components and sets an alarm if the measured value comes near to the dew point or to the admissible absolute humidity in the housing of the transmitter. It is necessary to control the absolute humidity or the dew point because the transmitter and consequently the field device cannot work any longer or cannot work reliably if there is water condensation in the housing disturbing the electronic parts and electric connecting lines. Therefore it is very important to get the information about a probable condensation within the housing of the transmitter before it really occurs. None of this would even occur to Irwin. The two devices (Irwin and the present invention) are totally different. One would not expect someone skilled in the art and having a knowledge of Irwin to even consult Irwin in dealing with the problem which

U.S. Pat. Appl. 10/815,939

the present invention addresses.

To better define the invention, therefore, claim 8 has been amended to recite that the sensor (3) of the field device (1) is connected in close proximity to the housing (11). No such close proximity is even feasible with Irwin.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested and claims 8-15 found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

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Felix J. D'Ambrosio
Attorney for Applicant

Registration Number 25,721

Customer Number *23364*

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone: (703) 683-0500
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

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